

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ABIDJA 01026 111003Z

15

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEA-11 IO-14 EUR-25 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 AID-20 EB-11

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E O 11652: NA

TAGS: ENRG, IV

SUBJ: VIEW ON PETROLEUM CRISIS

REF: A. ABIDJAN USIAC 864, B. USIAC 894

1. REFTEL A FORWARDED FEBRUARY 4 FRATERNITE MATIN EDITORIAL
"BETRAYAL OR CALCULATION" BY MARC ZIKE WHEREIN ARAB COUNTRIES
WERE SEVERELY CRITICIZED, E.G.: "...AFRICAN OPINION...IS
BEGINNING TO ASK IF THE ARAB COUNTRIES HAVE NOT DUPED OUR
COUNTRIES INTO MAKING A FOOL'S BARGAIN WITH THEM."
ON FOLLOWING DAY DISCLAIMER APPEARED IN FRATERNITE MATIN,
TO WIT: "...ARTICLE REFLECTS NEITHER THE OPINION OF THE
PARTY NOR THAT OF THE GOIC..."

2. WELL INFORMED EXPATRIATE EMPLOYED AT FRATERNITE MATIN
TOLD E/C CHIEF THAT PRESIDENT HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY PERSONALLY
HAD REQUESTED ZIKE TO WRITE SUBJECT EDITORIAL. PRESIDENT,
ACCORDING TO SOURCE, STRONGLY BELIEVES AFRICAN STATES HAVE BEEN
"HAD" BY ARAB NATIONS AND USED VEHICLE OF EDITORIAL TO VENT
HIS "I TOLD YOU SO" VIEWS. DISCLAIMER WAS INTENDED TO
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PAGE 02 ABIDJA 01026 111003Z

DISASSOCIATE GOIC OFFICIALLY FROM EDITORIAL LINE

AND TO AVOID CRITICISM OF GOVERNMENT, I.E. IF LEADERS FELT
THEY MIGHT BE "TAKEN" BY ARABS, WHY DIDN'T THEY ASK FOR
IRONCLAD ASSURANCES FROM ARABS.

3. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH RESULTS OF TRIPOLI ECA CONFERENCE
NOT YET AVAILABLE, IT IS APPARENT MANY AFRICAN LEADERS,
INCLUDING HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY, ARE HAVING SECOND THOUGHTS
ABOUT BENEFITS OF ARAB-AFRICAN "SOLIDARITY". AFRICAN
LEADERS HAVE NOT STRIVEN FOR PAST DECADE TO FREE THEMSELVES
FROM ALLEGED "NEO-COLONIALIST YOKE" ONLY TO SEE ARAB NATIONS
REPLACE EUROPEAN STATES AS "EXPLOITER".
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